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# ANNUAL REVIEW OF GENETICS

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## ANNUAL REVIEWS INC.

4139 EL CAMINO WAY  
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA 94306, USA  
(415) 493-4400

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April 20, 1977

APR 21 1977

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University Medical School  
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

In accordance with Dr. Roman's request, I am sending you a copy of Dorothea Bennett's chapter, "L. C. Dunn and His Contribution to T-Locus Genetics," which has just been received by our office. )  $\frac{7}{f}$

Sincerely yours,

*Toni Haskell*

Toni Haskell  
Assistant Editor

xc: H. L. Roman

Dunn started in science because he was interested in natural history; and he pursued it for the same reason. The fact that he got paid for doing it seemed like a lucky accident to him, and the fact that his work brought him eminence as a scientist meant little to him. He certainly never sought importance or position, he never played politics, and he seemed completely free from pretense of any kind. As his student and later his colleague, the most important message I took from him was to follow science first, to do my job as I thought right, and never to worry about whether the result would be "interesting", "topical", "grant-worthy" or a step toward personal advancement. This attitude no doubt reflected the fact that Dunn started in science in a time that was quieter and gentler than now, when it was easy to do science single-handedly without serious worries about either competition or support for elaborate and expensive laboratories; but it also reflected standards of integrity and honesty that were rarely matched then or now. This attitude is fortunately infectious; all of my own first students of course knew Dunn, and he took a personal interest in them as scientific grandchildren. They heard his message and still persist in being almost cantankerously obstinate in doing science for the sake of science alone, avoiding the kind of expediciencies that might have tainted them in his eyes. And now they tell their own students, Dunn's great-grandchildren, who never knew him, to follow the same principles. This is one of Dunn's legacies that I think is as important as his contributions to knowledge.

True - If you were  
telling anyone to get a  
science academic post  
in the first place!  
See C.E. Rosenberg  
J. Hist. Med.  
22: 2 (1963) page 40  
and the  
Bleeker  
memoir.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have tried in this brief memoir to give a picture of Dunn as a man and scientist, and to concentrate on what I thought were the important factors that led him first to genetics and then to such an intensive and elegant concentration on one small region of mouse chromosome. In doing this I have relied on my own impressions gained during our long friendship, and on autobiographical material he left behind, particularly his Columbia University "Oral History" which was made available to me by his wife Louise. The memoir is sadly lacking in many respects because it follows only one thread, and gives no impression of his many other interests and accomplishments. I am tempted to do justice to him by discussing these: his books, which served to introduce generations of students and laymen to principles of genetics, his interest in human variation and his clear view of race, and his crusading for political freedom were all important aspects of his life. But in fact, without a whole volume or maybe two to do it in, the job is just too big to attempt. Anyway, the story outlined here is probably the one that he would have thought most interesting.

Key papers - references.